



TENTERDEN  
TOWN COUNCIL

DECEMBER 2020

# MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

'The bonds of togetherness'

## COPING WITH COVID

Town's Spirit of Positivity

# Christmas NEWSLETTER

Image in memory of photographer Stuart Kirk





# MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As we celebrate Christmas and New Year, I would like to look forward to a brighter future rather than look back at what has been a year of unprecedented difficulties for everyone, and for me, as your Mayor, a programme of cancelled events and visits.

But, throughout, something very positive has shone through: Tenterden's indomitable community spirit.

I pay tribute to everyone involved in caring for the welfare of the town and its residents. You have been amazing, and I know that our bonds of togetherness, and care for others, will get us through to the end of the pandemic and that we will be all the stronger for it.

So, at this time of year, my message is this – look after each other, and remember that sometimes just a smile or a friendly good morning can make all the difference.

On behalf of myself, my consort David and the Town Council, I wish everyone a safe and caring Christmas and a happier, healthier 2021.

Cllr Jean Curteis,  
Town Mayor

## HONOUR FOR THE METHODIST CHURCH

The Tenterden Wesleyan Methodist Church has won a prestigious national award from the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings for the repair of its war memorial pipe organ, commemorating the names of 12 young members of the Church who lost their lives in World War One.

The John Betjeman Award, named in honour of the author, conservationist and Society committee member, "celebrates excellence in the repair of places of worship."

Said Town Clerk Phil Burgess: "This is a wonderful honour for the Methodist Church, and a valuable reminder of the rich heritage which the town's churches have to offer."

## NEW LOCAL INTEREST DIRECTORY

It's often been said that whatever your interest, there is a club or organisation in Tenterden just for you.

Now a new local interest directory has been compiled, with more than 100 entries of detailed information - from active retirement to youth organisations, sports and leisure to counselling and advice services, heritage and history to volunteering - the directory contains detailed information and contact details. The Town Council would like to thank Maurice Dalton for his co-ordination and compilation of the directory.

*To download your copy, please visit our website [www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/page/links](http://www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/page/links) or, if you don't have internet access, please contact the Town Council on 01580 762271.*

## COUNCIL SEEKS LAND FOR ALLOTMENTS

Landowners are being asked to contact the Town Council to discuss selling land which could be converted into much-needed allotments.

While 30 allotments in the town are already taken, there is a waiting list of 40 applicants.

Says Town Clerk Phil Burgess: "There has been a rise across the country in people wanting to grow their own fruit and vegetables, and Tenterden is no different – we have at least one resident who has been waiting two years for an allotment to come free.

"The Town Council has decided to set aside an allocation for purchasing land which could be used for more allotments."

Landowners with plots which they would be willing to sell – preferably to the west of the town and in St Michael's - are asked to call the Town Hall, tel 01580 762271 or email [townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk)

# 'M TEAM' MOVE INTO NEW HQ

The council's maintenance team have moved into their state-of-the-art headquarters at the St Michael's Recreation Ground, providing new and improved facilities for the team to work from and store their equipment.

The team continues to keep the town's public spaces looking pristine, and are implementing a major programme of re-cycling and caring for the Kiln Field wildlife habitat.

The new equipment has meant the team have been able to produce 12 tonnes of compost from green materials, with a further one tonne each month to help replenish the town's flower beds and borders.

Security has been a key part of the project, and the building will be protected by 11 monitored CCTV cameras, two of which have 360 degree coverage of the Recreation Ground, retractable bollards, high grade roller shutters, and a high-spec alarm system.

## NAME THE NEW ROUNDABOUT

The new roundabout at the junction of the A28 and Beacon Oak Road is to be given a name, and residents are being asked to come up with suggestions.

The roundabout – which will be paid for by Redrow, the developers of the 100-home Appledore Green development (off Tilden Gill) at a cost of £700,000 – will be on the site of an oak tree originally paid for by a Mrs Gordon of Ingleden in 1880 to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

Sadly, the tree fell victim to disease in the 1970s, and in March, 1980, the Mayor, Cllr Robert Cruttenden, planted a new tree, expressing the hope that it would always be called the Jubilee Oak.

However, that tree decayed in recent years, and was recently taken down as part of the work to build the new roundabout.

While the name Jubilee Roundabout has already been suggested, the Town Council is keen to ascertain the view of local people – but have already ruled out the idea of 'Roundy McRoundface'!

*Suggestions, please, on an email to:*  
[townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk)

# WORK CONTINUES ON 3 KEY PROJECTS

## RECREATION GROUND

The first phase of the exciting re-design of the Recreation Ground, costing at £1.6 million, is going to Ashford Borough Council (ABC) for planning permission. If that is granted, work will begin next year on . . .

- A high-spec skate park, which will also attract BMX and scooter riders, informed by meetings with local skateboarders and a skate park specialist.
- A youth hub, which has been presented to local young people and youth workers, housed in an eco-friendly building.
- A multi-use games arena, and
- New tennis and netball courts.

The second phase of the scheme will feature a new children's playground with provisional design features **including climbing walls, zip wire and trampoline.**

## TOWN HALL

The roof above the Mayor's Parlour, which suffered from rainwater leaks, has now been fixed, and all scaffolding removed.

It is proposed, subject to planning permission from ABC, that work will then continue on the interior, including the provision of a multi-function networking and exhibition space, improved lighting and acoustics in the Assembly Room, and access for wheelchairs.

With £1 million already set aside for the restoration and improvements, the Town Council is set to borrow a further £750,000 to complete the project.

The council proposes

submitting an application to the Public Works Loan Board, a government-backed source of funding at low interest rates for major public sector capital projects. Residents will be asked to give their approval in a public consultation.

## CINEMA

Tenterden Cinema Company, the community group charged with progressing the potential for a new cinema for the town, has recommended cutting costs by up to £750,000 to help bring the project to completion, and adding more revenue-generating activity to help its financial viability.

The cinema industry throughout the UK has suffered badly through the pandemic, and discussions on the project between the company and the council have been suspended until the New Year to assess the best way forward.

In the meantime, the company would be conferring with other cinema operators on their views on the industry, and an indication of their willingness to invest in a Tenterden cinema.

Tom Evans of the Tenterden Cinema Company said: "We continue to believe that a neighbourhood cinema development would have a major impact on the town's regeneration, post-pandemic, but the present scheme is too expensive"

The projected cost of a two-screen cinema is around £3 million, of which the council has pledged £500,000 to cover initial surveys, designs, fees and repairs to The Pebbles building.



# NEW HOMES IN TENTERDEN - COUNCIL DECISIONS

Applications to build new homes in Tenterden go first to the Town Council as a consultee. The Town Council's recommendation for refusal or acceptance then goes to Ashford Borough Council (ABC) for determination. If ABC also refuses the application, the developer has a final right of appeal to the national Planning Inspectorate.

Applications currently going through that system include....

- **Limes Land** A major development of 250 new homes and a country park, off the Woodchurch Road and Appledore Road.  
*Tenterden Town Council – refused. ABC – refused.*
- **Westwell Court** A 56-bed care home, 19 cottages and seven flats on land between Rogersmead and Cranbrook Road cemetery.  
*Tenterden Town Council – refused.*
- **London Beach** Plans for a development of 60 two-bed flats for active retirees, resubmitted as a 12-flat development, with an outline application for an additional 12 flats.  
*Tenterden Town Council – refused. ABC – permission granted*
- **Smallhythe Road** 54 apartments for older people.  
*Tenterden Town Council - approved, subject to conditions. ABC – no decision. Developers have gone to appeal.*

Meanwhile, the council has made its views crystal clear on the government's proposals to relax planning law.

Planning committee chairman John Crawford described them as "reckless, unsound and unwarranted", and said that if they went ahead, the Town Council would have little or no influence over where houses would be built, or ensure they met the needs of the community.

## 'THE SPIRIT OF POSITIVITY'

*How the council, community and commerce came together*

Tenterden and St Michael's coped outstandingly with the resurgence of Covid-19 and the November lockdown, with the Town Council, businesses and the community ensuring the town remained open and operational as much as possible.

Key figures in the regeneration of Tenterden's economy have been working hard to develop a strategy for helping the High Street and other businesses during the pandemic and beyond.

An initial meeting was called by Tenterden's new Town Centre and Tourism Co-ordinator, Keli Nolan-Lyons in September, and involved the Mayor, Cllr Jean Curteis, Tenterden & District Chamber of Commerce secretary Mike Bartlett, James Fuller, originator of Our Tenterden Business Team, and Cllr Sue Ferguson of the MyTenterden website.

Ideas were then fed into meetings of the High Street Regeneration sub-committee, which has been considering initiatives such as a local App promoting Tenterden businesses; assessing the demand for small businesses to share office space; reviewing the possibility of designing a colour palette for the frontages of High Street retailers to create a clear design identity for the town; and further improvements to parking.

As the November lockdown was imposed, the council issued a factsheet, pointing local businesses to government and Ashford Borough Council support initiatives and grants.

And, with the approach of Christmas trading, the council successfully applied for a continuation of the free parking scheme to the end of December, freeing up around 180 spaces for shoppers and those working in town centre businesses.

Said Town Clerk Phil Burgess: "The absolute commitment of the council, local businesses and the whole community to ensuring the local economy has remained fully supported has led to a spirit of positivity – in recent weeks, at least six new businesses have opened up in town, and local websites have been instrumental in helping the town towards a brighter future."

*Picture shows (left to right) Mike Bartlett, Cllr Sue Ferguson, Keli Nolan-Lyons, James Fuller and the Mayor, Cllr Jean Curteis.*



# COUNCIL'S £20,000 INVESTMENT IN YOUTH FOR 2021

The Town Council is investing £20,000 in a new programme for the town's young people, including street sessions to reach those who would not normally go to the local Youth Café.

The council has teamed up with Sk8side, the Ashford-based community interest company, which has provided design input and advice on Tenterden's new skatepark, scheduled to be built on the Recreation Ground next year.

Now, Sk8side has been given an additional brief to extend their existing work managing the twice-weekly Youth Café sessions at Highbury Hall, which will re-locate to a new youth hub next year as part of the Recreation Ground revamp.

Sk8side – which has more than 300 members in Ashford – will also be offering an additional 'outreach' service in Tenterden, going out onto the streets to engage difficult-to-reach local youngsters who would not normally go to the Youth Café.

Explains Town Clerk Phil Burgess: "The Sk8side team have had great success in reaching young people in Ashford, and channelling their talents into productive outcomes."

A key element of the Sk8side offering is to help move young people from being NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) onto workshops to improve their personal and social skills, backed up with a work placement scheme.

There are also programmes on drug awareness, sexual health and housing, as well as encouraging youngsters to run day trips to help build their confidence and organisational abilities.

# TOWN SETS CLIMATE CHANGE TARGETS

In January 2020, the Town Council passed a resolution committing it to become carbon neutral by 2030. A Climate Change Committee has been set up, with both council and resident members to meet this ambitious and urgent target.

We will be setting up a dedicated Youth Climate Change Panel and working closely with both the Wildlife Committee and the Neighbourhood Plan Committee to give Tenterden a truly green future.

Immediate projects include putting the Town Council's house in order – installing solar panels on council buildings where possible, pushing for an improved electric vehicle point infrastructure and a local Terracycle recycling scheme that processes coffee pods/foil food pouches and beauty products.

We are working closely with the Tenterden Civil Society and the Neighbourhood Plan committee on a sustainable transport conference to be held in early 2021, and are reaching out to other towns and parishes which are working on reducing single-use plastics – and will be launching a 'Plastic Free Tenterden' campaign in 2021.

There is a lot of work to do and the clock is ticking. We would love to hear your ideas and details of projects that are already up and running, so to get involved contact either Councillor Kate Walder on [kate.walder@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:kate.walder@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk) or the Town Hall on [admin.assist@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:admin.assist@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk)

*Santa's little helpers, Millie and Sophie Gilbert, on mince pie duty!*



# COUNCIL STEPS IN TO HELP SANTA

Tenterden Town Council has stepped in to help out Santa, in a heart-warming example of the community pulling together as the festive season gets underway.

With Covid restrictions putting paid to the Kent & East Sussex Railway's hugely popular Santa Specials running from Tenterden station, Santa was left with 6,000 mince pies and a hundred chocolate selection boxes, and no passengers to give them to.

So the Town Council has bought them all and donated the mince pies to the Food Bank and the chocolates to the Big Wrap charity.

Says Deputy Town Clerk Claire Gilbert: "Even Santa sometimes needs a hand, and we are really pleased to have worked with the Railway to ensure that the goodies normally given out on the Santa Specials will still help families enjoy a great Christmas."

"The way that the community is pulling together at this time of year is inspirational, and the council is delighted to have been able to help the railway – and Santa, in particular".

# TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE 2021

There are plenty of opportunities to see your Town Council and committees in action. During the Covid-19 crisis, you can access them via Zoom video conferencing; please visit our website: <https://tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/> and click on 'The Council' and 'Agendas and Minutes of Committees'. Each meeting Agenda contains the Zoom link. For those wishing to just listen in, the council is streaming live audio as normal via: <https://www.audiominutes.com/p/player/player.html?userid=tendntc>

Date (ALL MONDAYS unless specified)	Internal	Planning	Town Council	External
4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Planning			Assembly Room
11 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Town Council, Internal, External	– from 7pm		Assembly Room. Robes to be worn for TC.
1 <sup>st</sup> February 2021	Planning			Assembly Room
8 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	External, Internal	– from 7pm		Assembly Room
1 <sup>st</sup> March 2020	Planning			Assembly Room
8 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Town Council, Internal, External	– from 7pm		Assembly Room. Robes to be worn for TC.
6 <sup>th</sup> April 2021 (Tues)*	Planning			Assembly Room
12 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	External, Internal	– from 7pm		Assembly Room
17 <sup>th</sup> April 2021 (Sat)	Meet Your Councillors Coffee Morning – 10am to 12 noon – TO BE CONFIRMED			Assembly Room
4 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 (Tues) *	Planning			Assembly Room
10 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Annual Meeting of the Town Council, including Mayor-Making – 7pm			Assembly Room. Robes to be worn.

\* Please note this is a Tuesday due to bank holiday

## HOW TO CONTACT THE TOWN COUNCIL

Tenterden Town Council welcomes comments and feedback on its activities. This is how to get in touch....

If you would like to contact your local councillor, please feel free to call or email.

**By email:** [townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk)

**By phone:** 01580 762271

**By post:** Town Hall, 24 High St, Tenterden TN30 6AN

**Website:** [www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk).

**In person:** By appointment only

Mike Carter (West)	Caxton Cottage, 12 West Cross, TN30 6JH	01580 388709	<a href="mailto:cllr.carter@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.carter@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Victor Cole (St. Michaels)	35 Henley Fields, TN30 6EL	07778 668894	<a href="mailto:cllr.cole@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.cole@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
John Crawford (South)	2 Stace Close, TN30 6RP	07779 630013	<a href="mailto:cllr.crawford@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.crawford@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Jean Curteis (St. Michaels)	38 Henley Fields, TN30 6EL	07799 765730	<a href="mailto:cllr.curteis@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.curteis@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Sue Ferguson (North)	2 St. Benets Court, TN30 6QS	01580 765546	<a href="mailto:cllr.ferguson@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.ferguson@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Amy Gardner (South)	6 Bells Lane, TN30 6ES	07901 615928	<a href="mailto:cllr.gardner@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.gardner@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Harry Hickmott (St. Michaels)	High Force, Grange Road, TN30 6EE	01580 766496	<a href="mailto:cllr.hickmott@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.hickmott@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Callum Knowles (South)	6 Eastgate Road, TN30 7AH	07810 155686	<a href="mailto:cllr.knowles@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.knowles@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Lisa Lovelidge (South)	6 Eastgate Road, TN30 7AH	07733 318836	<a href="mailto:cllr.lovelidge@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.lovelidge@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Ken Mulholland (St. Michaels)	Dering Court, Grange Road, St, TN30 6DT	01580 762827	<a href="mailto:cllr.mulholland@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.mulholland@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Justin Nelson (North)	66 Rogersmead, TN30 6LF	01580 765313	<a href="mailto:cllr.nelson@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.nelson@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Russel Parkin (West)	7 Appledore Road, TN30 7AY	07815 055504	<a href="mailto:cllr.parkin@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.parkin@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Roger Quinton (North))	Top Meadow, Woodchurch Road, TN30 7AD	07956 805117	<a href="mailto:cllr.quinton@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.quinton@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Pam Smith (St. Michaels)	The Old Malthouse, Swain Road, TN30 6PS	01580 765081	<a href="mailto:cllr.smith@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.smith@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Alan Sugden (North)	60 Rogersmead, TN30 6LF	01580 765581	<a href="mailto:cllr.sugden@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.sugden@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Kate Walder (West)	Potts Farm, Chennell Park Road, TN30 6XA	07389 110611	<a href="mailto:cllr.walder@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.walder@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Town Clerk's office	Town Hall, 24 High Street, TN30 6AN	01580 762271	<a href="mailto:townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>